

REMARKS

The examiner has required restriction of the claims to one of Group I, claims 1-26, drawn to apparatus for applying clamping pressure, classified in Class 156, subclass 304.1, and Group II, claims 27-28, drawn to a method of maintaining high inter-joint pressure, classified in Class 144, subclass 344.

Applicant has elected the claims of Group I, comprising claims 1-26.

The applicant has also been required to elect a single distinct species of the disclosed apparatus, the examiner finding that claims 1 and 26 appear to be distinct species of the apparatus.

Applicant has elected claim 26, but the examiner's requirement is respectfully traversed. Applicant submits that claim 26 is generic. Specifically, each of the elements of a downstream pressure system, a braking system, an upstream pressure system and a clamping system, as recited in claim 26, are all required elements in claim 1. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that claim 26 is generic to claim 1.

Respectfully submitted,

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